Teaching and Learning Update May 2012

Testing/Assessment- We are finishing up the MSP testing at grades 3-8 and we just have make-ups to complete with the on-line testing for grades 6 and 7 in reading.

Next up will be the End of Course (EOC) assessments in math and science in the HS and select students in the 8th grade taking advanced math. We are also in the midst of finalizing our Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) in PE, fine arts and social studies. These assessments are, as the title suggests, classroom based projects or tests that "give every student enrolled in the class the opportunity to prove that they have mastered a number of the state learning goals in that area". We score these assessments like we would any other classroom assessment and we report the success rate to the state.

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- Concerning the 2nd through 5th grade math home practice materials, I have the go ahead from our teachers on the Saxon materials. I'm currently in negotiations with the Saxon representative to obtain the use of these materials at the lowest cost and in the most efficient format. Writing materials teams for summer review of our currently adopted materials are formed and we will be meeting the last week of school to determine schedules for the work. We will have a small collection of miscellaneous instructional materials for you to review at the June board meeting with approval asked for at the July meeting per your new procedure.

As a reminder, the curriculum materials adoption plan or cycle is on-line under the curriculum page. So you don't have to look, I'll let you know that the next two adoptions are in foreign language and fine arts. Let me know if you have any unique or pressing concerns around those areas.

Professional Development- I am very excited by the classes and number of participants for this summers professional development series. We will be conducting our third iPad class along with two book studies and a technology class. I have almost half of the staff participating in at least one of these opportunities. Like last year some members of the Woodland school district will be joining us in the book studies.

I'm not sure where to put this, but I consider it professional development for myself so I think this section is appropriate. I am exploring the possibility of teaching a "pre-algebra" class during 0 period at the high school next fall. This will provide the opportunity for three different accomplishments. I will gain personal experience around the La Center learning model, it's application and an opportunity to share those experiences with all staff. Secondly, it is a way to begin to establish a second, traditional, math track at the high school. Lastly it is an opportunity for me to try and help a group of students that have traditionally been unsuccessful in our current track find success in math . We will be hand selecting current 8th and 9th grade students that meet the profile above and I will be personally contacting their parents about this opportunity.

ELL- So far, two new kindergarten students for this program!

Grants- As of May 9th the consolidated program review was complete. We will await word on the states evaluation of our work and I will report that to you when I receive it. We have just gotten verbal conformation on a number of grants that were written this spring but I'll wait to publicly put those in writing until we get the official notifications. That said, I'm very excited by the success we had obtaining outside financial resources to help expand opportunities for our students.

Library- The expansion of eReaders is in the works and I'll get you all the details in next months report when the plan is finalized.

Lastly, will be joining a number of other districts around our ESD in providing a summer reading program offered through Capstone digital. This is an electronically sourced reading program that compares to our on-line SuccessMaker math program. It is free of charge to the district and our students and is being provided for all students K-8. Students will select from a variety of reading materials and their progress is tracked and monitored over time. The reports will be made available to parents and to their teachers in the fall.

Dave.